

Quiet Crisis



Age Wave Maxes Out Affordable Housing, King County 2008–2025

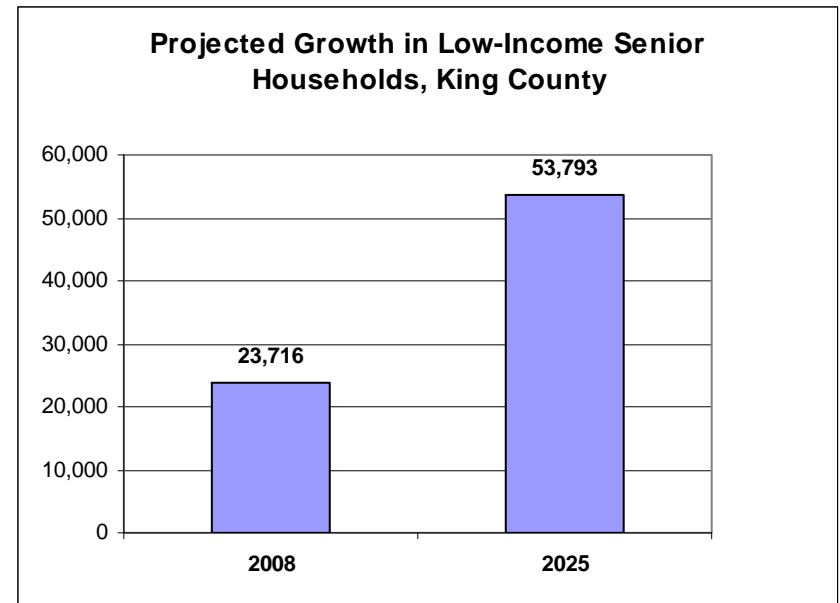
February 2009

What is the “quiet crisis”?



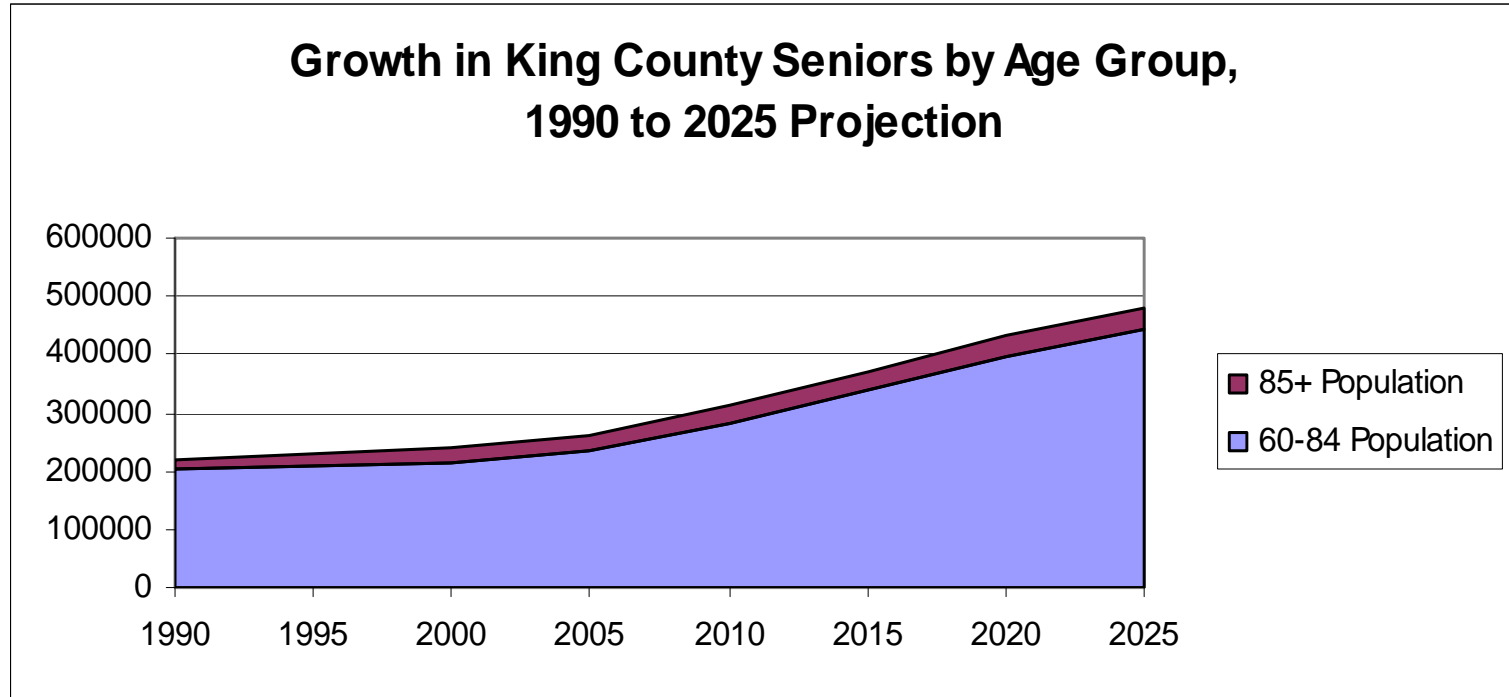
Crisis Today and Tomorrow

- We can't help all low-income seniors now who need housing
 - Only 53% have subsidized housing
- The need for affordable senior housing will more than double in the next 20 years



Four Trends Foretell Crisis

1. Aging baby boomers to double the number of seniors by 2025

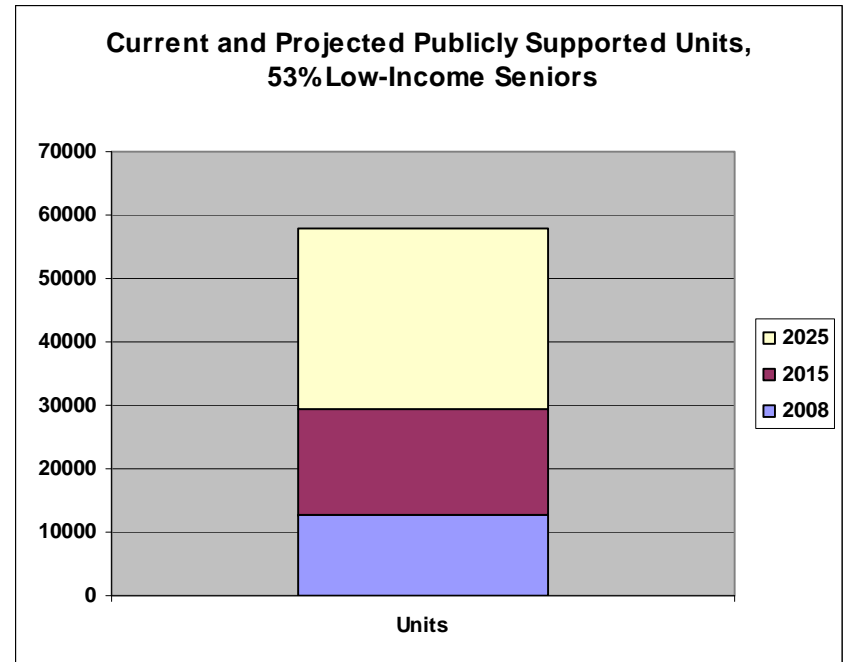


Trends, cont.

2. Trend of living longer:
 - ▣ More years of poor health
 - ▣ More danger of outliving retirement funds
 - ▣ More years of housing needed
3. Increasing senior poverty rate
4. Disparity in poverty rates among racial and ethnic groups

Projected Need

- **936 more publicly assisted units/year through 2025**
- This would just keep up our current ratio of housing 53% of low-income seniors



What can we do?



To-Do List, Starting Now:

- ❑ Help seniors live successfully in retirement
- ❑ Help seniors “age in place”
- ❑ Develop more choices in housing and supportive services
- ❑ Increase supply of affordable senior housing
- ❑ Encourage senior-friendly neighborhoods

1. Live Successfully in Retirement

- ❑ Initiatives for healthy aging
- ❑ Financial “literacy” training for individuals
- ❑ “Universal design” features (for easy accessibility) in all housing



2. Age in Place

- ❑ Property tax relief
- ❑ Home repair, weatherization and modification programs
- ❑ Improvements to current affordable senior housing
- ❑ Preserve mobile home communities
- ❑ Better coordination of in-home health, meal and social services

3. More Choices in Housing and Support Services

- ❑ Assisted living within subsidized housing
- ❑ Adequate treatment for persons with chronic disabilities
- ❑ Supports to live with relatives or in adult family homes
- ❑ Housing through ethnic and faith-based organizations
- ❑ Reforms in national health policy



4. Increase Supply

- ❑ Make strategic use of limited local resources
- ❑ Leverage state and federal resources
- ❑ Provide development incentives
- ❑ Encourage new detached accessory dwelling units

5. Senior-Friendly Neighborhoods

- ❑ Walkable, with access to services and ways to be involved
- ❑ Development incentives, transit-oriented development
- ❑ Sustainable design features in public housing



Collaborating agencies:

- ❑ Aging and Disability Services
- ❑ City of Seattle Office of Housing
- ❑ Seattle Housing Authority
- ❑ King County Housing Authority
- ❑ City of Seattle Human Services Department
- ❑ King County Housing & Community Development